

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1501

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7727

EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS DOD, USCINCSO CZ

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, NL, CI
SUBJECT: GOC SEEKS HELP IN PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT FOR DUTCH AIRCRAFT

1. THROUGH CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF ADMIRAL CARLOS LEMAY, GOC HAS REQUESTED AMBASSADOR TO SEEK USG ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING SIX FOKKER F-27 AIRCRAFT THROUGH INTERCESSION WITH NETHERLANDS GOVT.
2. PLANES, A COMMERCIAL-CIVILIAN TYPE, ARE WANTED BY CHILEAN NAVY FOR GENERAL TRANSPORT AND PATROL PURPOSES. GOC IS PREPARED TO PAY FOR THEM IN CASH; FOKKER IS SAID TO BE READY TO GO AHEAD WITH THE TRANSACTION; BUT NETHERLANDS GOVT HAS NOT GIVEN ITS APPROVAL. ACCORDING TO LEMAY, OBJECTIONS HAVE BEEN OFFERED BY DUTCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AID AND DEVELOPMENT PROHN, AND DUTCH MINISTER OF TRANSPORT.
3. IN EFFORT TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES, CHILEANS HAVE ARRANGED TO HAVE CORFO (CHILEAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, A GOVERNMENT AGENCY OWNING OR CONTROLLING LARGE SECTORS OF CHILEAN INDUSTRY) ACT AS PURCHASER. END USE OF PLANES, HOWEVER, HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED.
4. WE ASKED LEMAY WHETHER CHILEANS COULD NOT FIND IN US OR ELSEWHERE A PLANE WHICH WOULD MEET THEIR NEEDS. HE SAID THEY COULD NOT. TYPES USED BY US AND OTHERS WERE TOO LARGE AND

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COSTLY OR HAD OTHER DRAWBACKS FROM CHILEAN VIEWPOINT.

5. WE EXPRESSED DOUBT USG COULD EXERT MUCH INFLUENCE ON NETHERLANDS GOVT IN A MATTER IN WHICH THE MAJOR PROBLEM APPEARED TO BE POLITICAL. NEVERTHELESS, SAID WE WOULD ASK DEPT IF IT WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE SOME USG SPOKESMAN RAISE SUBJECT WITH DUTCH.

6. COMING IN WAKE OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT CUTOFF OF MILITARY AID TO CHILE, A FLAT REFUSAL OF CHILEAN REQUEST WOULD GO DOWN BADLY HERE. WE SUGGEST STATE AND DEFENSE DEPTS CONSIDER HOW BEST TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH DUTCH AND AT SAME TIME EXPLORE ACTIVELY POSSIBILITY THAT SOME US CIVILIAN PLANE NOW IN PRODUCTION OR IN COMMERCIAL INVENTORY MIGHT BE OFFERED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE NEW F-27S AS A PRIVATE CASH SALE. PLEASE ADVISE US ASAP OF WASHINGTON REACTION.

7. FOREGOING COORDINATED WITH DATT AND MILGP.
POPPER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DOD, USCINCSO CZ.

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